



### **BCA statement – 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

The Government's decision to drop its plans to develop a 10 Year Cancer Strategy, and replace it with a Major Conditions Strategy, has raised concern among Blood Cancer Alliance member charities.

Blood cancer is the UK's fifth most common cancer, and the third biggest cancer killer. Blood cancer patients have specific and complex needs, which have historically been overlooked in cancer policymaking and planning. The Blood Cancer Alliance's Forgotten Fifth campaign has highlighted how this has resulted in worrying unmet care and support needs among this cancer patient group.

We welcome the ambition of a Major Conditions Strategy to address the system-wide issues within the NHS, including workforce and inequalities, that affect patients with serious diseases, including cancer. However, we are concerned there will not be capacity within such a broad ranging strategy to consider distinct initiatives that can address the specific needs of blood cancer patients.